

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 02788 020007Z

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 983

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2788

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJECT: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING; DISPOSITION OF RANSOM FUNDS

1. EMBASSY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED BECAUSE OF RADIO NEWSCAST TODAY SPECIFYING THAT FUNDS COLLECTED BY PATTERSON FAMILY ARE IN SAFEKEEPING IN CONSULATE GENERAL HERMOSILLO. THIS MAKES CG PREMISES AS WELL AS PRINCIPAL OFFICER AND OTHER US OFFICIALS HERMOSILLO TARGETS FOR PATTERSON KIDNAPPERS OR FOR ORDINARY GANGSTERS UNRELATED TO CASE. OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE MAJOR PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN ANY PLAN TO TRANSFER THE FUNDS FROM THE CG (E.G., READY ACCESS OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS, NAME IN WHICH FUNDS SHOULD BE DEPOSITED.)

2. EMBASSY HAS TOLD CG TO LEAK INDICATION THAT FUNDS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO UNSPECIFIED HERMOSILLO BANK, ALTHOUGH IN FACT MONEY REMAINING IN CONGEN FOR TIME BEING. OBJECTIONS TO THIS COURSE OBVIOUS TO EMBASSY BUT IN OUR OPINION THEY ARE OVERRIDEN BY VULNERABILITY OF CG AND STAFF AS RESULT OF RADIO NEWSCAST CITED ABOVE.

3. ON DIKEOS' RETURN TO HERMOSILLO, WE WILL CONTINUE STUDY POSSIBILITY OF OTHER SAFER STORAGE FOR FUNDS.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

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